

CENTRAL CORRIDOR BRAINSTORMING ACTIVITY RESPONSES

UNIVERSITY AVENUE TASK FORCE, JUNE 7, 2006

At their first meeting, University Avenue task force members were asked to complete a short brainstorming activity regarding their preferences and observations of the Avenue and LRT planning. Upon completing the survey, each of the task force members named their most important issue from the fifth question. After listing the nineteen issues, each member received three “votes” to identify the group’s top concerns regarding the planning and development process.

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|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Preservation & Enhancement (7) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian Friendly (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Affordable Housing (6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Living Wages (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for Existing Businesses (6) | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeownership (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ownership for Entrepreneurs (5) | <input type="checkbox"/> Property Values (3) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equity in Contracts (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mix of Development (2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Art (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Parking (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Term Planning (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> New Businesses (1) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Impact on Businesses during Construction (4) | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Housing Choices (1) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Safety (1) |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Density where it belongs |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Non Divisive |

The full results of the survey are listed below.

1. What is your favorite place along University Avenue?

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|--|------------------------------------|
| • Mai Village (6) | • Keys Restaurant |
| • Capitol & green space near the Capitol (5) | • West Indies Soul |
| • Dale & University (4) | • Hoa Bien |
| • Raymond & University / Raymond Arts District (3) | • Turf Club |
| • Target (3) | • Shear Pleasure |
| • University of Minnesota (3) | • 280 & University |
| • Midway shopping (3) | • Snelling & University |
| • New library at Dale Street (2) | • Lexington & University |
| • Dickerman Park (2) | • Hamline & University |
| • Western Bank (2) | • Episcopal Homes |
| • Abundant Bistro (2) | • Foodsmart grocery store |
| • Saigon Restaurant & Bakery (2) | • Midway Bookstore |
| • Arnella's | • Various Asian stores and markets |
| • Andy's Garage | • Specialty Manufacturing Building |

2. Use three words to describe University Avenue today:

- Diverse (6)
- Potential/Opportunity (4)
- Underutilized/Underdeveloped (3)
- Vibrant (2)
- Tacky (2)
- Needs updating/help (2)
- Traffic/Traffic oriented (2)
- Unique (2)
- Not pedestrian friendly (2)
- Too busy (2)
- Vital Artery
- Mish-mash
- Shabby
- “The urban suburb”
- Ugly surface parking
- Not functional
- Wide
- Low image
- Billboards
- Culture
- Active
- Comfortable
- Large Southeast Asian community
- Great location
- Evolving
- Home to independent businesses
- Many Asian restaurants
- Clutter
- Fast
- Surprising
- Local economy enhancement
- No unity
- Historic

3. Use three words or short phrases that describes how you would like University Avenue and the neighborhoods adjacent to it to look in 20-25 years:

- Diverse (5)
- Trees / green space (5)
- Visually appealing (3)
- Mixed-use development (2)
- More housing and businesses (2)
- Pedestrian friendly (2)
- Vibrant (2)
- Ethnic businesses (2)
- Diverse land use
- Alive
- Perky
- A cool neighborhood
- A destination, but not Grand Avenue
- The Champs Elysees
- Unifying theme
- Many small businesses
- One of the most important commercial corridors
- Home to independent businesses
- Culture
- Economically stable
- Colorful places to eat and shop
- Commercial hub & connector
- Open & inviting
- Varied, but cohesive
- Mai village is still open, Wal-Mart will be closed
- Affordable housing
- Clean
- Contemporary
- Variety of living & housing options
- Classy
- Homey
- People oriented
- Exciting
- A marketplace where you can walk
- Great social interaction
- Proud
- Easy to travel
- Biking and walking
- Safe
- Eclectic

4. Name the three major issues you feel need to be addressed as part of the LRT process (planning for the actual construction of the LRT line):

- Business protection and mitigation (8)
- Parking on the Avenue and in neighborhoods (5)
- Station location & frequency (4)
- Pedestrian access (2)
- Monetary support and loans for the small business owners (2)
- Small business assistance and support (2)
- Serving & protecting existing community (2)
- Community participation in decision making (2)
- Ensure homeowners & seniors are not taxed out of their homes (2)
- Integration of public art (2)
- Safety (2)
- Equitable development & design (2)
- Station design
- Alternative routes during construction
- Labor agreements
- Avoid becoming South Robert Street
- Increasing property values
- Land use & land banking
- Environmental awareness
- Complete redesign of the Avenue (including sidewalks)
- Day-to-day living situation for residents

5. Name three issues you feel need to be addressed as part of planning for future development along University Avenue and the neighborhoods adjacent to it (not directly related to LRT planning and construction):

- Community inclusion & consensus (3)
- Mitigating & controlling gentrification (3)
- Rising property taxes and rents, especially in Frogtown (3)
- Keeping small businesses alive (3)
- Mixed-use development (3)
- Affordable housing (3)
- Attracting businesses (2)
- Creating pedestrian-friendly development (3)
- Equity in contracts (2)
- Parking (2)
- Appropriate use of density (2)
- Support healthy business development
- Impact on existing communities
- Think big
- Plan for the long term, not just for the present
- Equitable development
- Improving tax base
- Preservation of the neighborhood
- Minority contractors are included in the development process
- Flexibility of overall design to accommodate future opportunities
- Access across the Avenue
- Integrating public art
- Employment opportunities
- Maintain opportunities for existing businesses
- Living wages for workers
- Beautifying the Avenue
- Increasing the stock of home ownership
- Non divisive development
- Bus linkage
- Environmental sustainability
- Safety
- Opportunities for affordable work force housing
- Cooperation with city to get things done
- Safety

6. List one to three phrases that describe what you hope this task force can accomplish:

- Compelling vision for corridor/neighborhoods (2)
- Long range planning (2)
- Take a big picture approach (2)
- Take care of existing businesses and residents (2)
- Greater understanding of land use issues
- Bring diverse views to consciousness
- Cohesive design
- Influence the planning of LRT to be inclusive of all affected parties
- Mission accomplish
- Help community and businesses to understand the benefits of LRT
- Help direct LRT in St. Paul into a smart, community-oriented mode of transit
- Balance local needs with city-to-city
- Provide info that will help future development on University Avenue
- Citizen input
- Make meaningful decisions
- Identify community values and principles for development that will be upheld by the City
- Improvement of quality of life for corridor residents
- Accomplish what we set out to do
- A vision for the interaction of the neighborhoods
- Think of the community, not of special interests
- Community integration
- Clearly identified strategies
- An equitable plan for accountable minority participation
- Improved community development
- Clarity
- Values for surrounding land uses
- Limit self interest and parochial viewpoint
- Viable jobs and homes
- Create a vision that excites
- Cultural preservation
- Plan for mixed uses
- Concern for equity
- Develop a work force
- Fluid relationship between businesses, residents, and government
- Learning
- A consensus for the possibilities presented by the corridor